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Lunesdale Rural District Council

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# REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year

1947

Printed by F. N. Shires, Ltd., Mary St., Lancaster.



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## **Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health**

**For the Year 1947.**

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To the Chairman and Members of the  
Lunesdale Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1947, on the Health and Sanitary conditions in your District.

This Report includes that of your Sanitary Inspector and his Staff, so far as their activities relate to Health and Sanitary matters.

The destruction of records by the fire in January 1946, is still causing serious inconvenience to the Staff.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. A. TOMB,

Medical Officer of Health.

**PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.**

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**Medical Officer of Health :**

J. A. TOMB, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

**Sanitary Inspector :**

A. Warburton, Certif. R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

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1. General Statistics of the Area :

AREA of the District (Acres)	.....	.....	.....	76,099
POPULATION (Census 1931)	.....	.....	.....	6,575
POPULATION (Registrar General's Estimate, 1947)				6,752
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1931)			.....	1,633
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1947)			.....	1,940
RATEABLE VALUE	.....	.....	.....	£44,748
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE	.....			£178.29957

The chief industries of the inhabitants of the District are :—

Agriculture.

Manufacture of Textiles (Cotton and Artificial Silk).

Brick Manufacture.

There is no unemployment in the District.

## Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

			Total	Male	Female
Live Births (Legitimate) .....	.....	.....	123	63	60
(Illegitimate) .....	.....	.....	5	3	2
TOTAL			128	66	62
Birth-Rate per 1,000 estimated					
population, mid-1947 .....	.....	.....	18.9		
Still Births .....	.....	.....	4	3	1
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still)					
births .....	.....	.....	30		
Deaths .....	.....	.....	82	41	41
Death-rate per 1,000 estimated					
population .....	.....	.....	12.1		
Deaths from Puerperal causes :—					
Puerperal and Post-abortive Sepsis			NIL		
Other Maternal causes .....	.....	.....	NIL		
TOTAL Maternal mortality			NIL		
Death rate of Infants under one year of age :—					
All Infants per 1,000 Live Births .....	.....	.....			38
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births .....					40
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births .....					NIL
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .....	.....	.....			9
Deaths from Measles (all ages) .....	.....	.....			NIL
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) .....	.....	.....			NIL
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years age) .....	.....	.....			2



## CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1947.

					Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	3	4
Cancer	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	6	9
Cerebral Haemorrhage	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	8	11
Heart Disease	.....	.....	.....	.....	14	9	23
Other Circulatory Diseases	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	4	8
Bronchitis	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	—	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	—	1
Gastric Ulcer	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	2	3
Diarrhoea under 2 years	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	2
Appendicitis	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	1	3
Suicide	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—	—
Other Violent Causes	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—	—
All Other Causes	.....	.....	.....	.....	6	7	13

	Per 1,000 of estimated population.				Maternal mortality rate.		Rate of deaths under one year per 1,000 live births
	Live birth-rate	Crude death-rate	Death-rate from tuberculosis of respiratory system	Death-rate from cancer	Per 1,000 live births	Per 1,000 total (live and still) births	
1942-46	15.5	12.3	0.17	1.60	6.29	6.10	29
1946	19.3	12.1	0.15	1.20	Nil	Nil	23
1947	18.9	12.1	0.29	1.33	Nil	Nil	39
Increase or Decrease in 1947 on—							
5 yrs. average, 1942-46	+3.4	—0.2	+0.12	—0.27	—6.29	—6.10	+10
Prev. year	—0.4	Nil	+0.14	+0.13	Nil	Nil	+16

## TUBERCULOSIS.

9 cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year :—  
Pulmonary, three males and three females ; Non-Pulmonary, two males and one female.

	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Other Forms		Respiratory		Other Forms	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1— 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
15—20	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—
20—25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	6		3		1		1	

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING 1947.

Diseases	Under 1	1 2	2 3	3 4	4 5	5 10	10 15	15 20	20 35	35 45	45 65 & Over	Total
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	3
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
Measles	3	11	5	11	5	41	11	1	2	—	—	90
Whooping Cough	2	2	1	—	5	9	—	—	—	—	—	19
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	1	1	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fev	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Polio-encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorium	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED—122

An epidemic of Measles occurred towards the end of the year ; chiefly amongst children starting their school-going period.



## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The following table shows the position in regard to the number of children immunised against Diphtheria since the beginning of the year 1941.

### Persons inoculated each year from 1941-47.

Age in years on the 31st Dec. of the corresp'd yr.	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	
Under 1	2	1	1	4	1	0	6	Total Inoculated under 5 yrs on 31st Dec., 1947
1	23	16	30	12	21	16	45	
2	24	12	14	4	15	8	16	
3	37	15	8	4	2	5	5	
4	35	9	7	1	1	3	12	
5	68	14	11	2	4	3	3	Total Inoculated aged 5-14 yrs. on 31st Dec., 1947
6	70	6	7	1	0	0	5	
7	76	12	10	2	0	0	2	
8	74	15	5	0	4	0	3	
9	63	10	5	0	0	1	2	
10	72	11	8	1	0	1	2	Total Inoculated aged 15 yrs. and over on 31st Dec., 1947
11	52	7	4	0	0	0	0	
12	45	11	6	2	0	0	0	
13	49	2	1	0	1	0	0	
14	8	0	2	1	0	0	0	
15	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	338
Total each yr	699	141	119	34	49	37	101	GRAND TOTAL 1180

All children between 1 yr. and 15 yrs. are offered free immunisation. Sessions are held at various places in the District (e.g., schools). There is a rota of general practitioners engaged by the District Council to perform immunisation.

Provision has been made for immunisation in homes by private practitioners, where children cannot attend centres.

The Prophylactic used is A.P.T. in two doses at a month's interval.

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### WATER SUPPLY.

The position regarding water supplies in the Area is reasonably satisfactory. The chief source of supply is obtained from the Manchester Corporation's Thirlmere Aqueduct which serves the major portion of the following Parishes, viz. :—

Arkholme-with Cawood ; Borwick ; Burrow-with-Burrow ; Cantsfield ; Caton-with-Littledale (Emergency supply only) ; Gressingham ; Halton ; Ireby ; Leck ; Nether Kellet ; Melling-with-Wrayton ; Tatham ; Tunstall ; Wennington ; and Whittington.

The Council also control two supplies, one serving parts of the Parishes of Hornby-with-Farleton and Wray-with-Botton, and the other a part of the Parish of Caton, whilst at Caton there is also an emergency connection to the Thirlmere Aqueduct.

Part of the Parish of Over Kellet obtains water from wells and pumps, and the remainder is a piped supply taken from the Carnforth Water Company's Main passing through the village. Work was commenced in November on the laying of a new 3in. Water Main from the Council's Thirlmere Supply, to provide a more suitable and satisfactory supply to the village, but owing to difficulties with the Contractor, the work was not completed at the end of the year.

The Agricultural Committee's Grant Scheme for the provision of piped supplies to a number of farm premises in the Area, has again been taken advantage of by a number of owners, but one would like to see more owners making use of the scheme where this is practicable.

In the table set out below is given an estimate of the supplies to property in the individual Parishes together with the population so served.

## Water Supplies to Houses in District :—

Parish.	From Public Mains.		Private Supplies.	
	Direct to Houses.	Population Served.	No. of Houses.	Population Served.
Arkholme .....	31	101	40	150
Borwick .....	32	113	16	60
Burrow .....	29	103	15	64
Cantsfield .....	8	27	14	52
Caton .....	345	1192	52	92
Claughton .....	Nil	Nil	42	155
Gressingham .....	11	37	33	123
Halton .....	254	885	15	71
Hornby .....	96	313	18	67
Ireby .....	16	59	5	18
Nether Kellet .....	71	218	Nil	Nil
Over Kellet .....	27	95	77	289
Leck .....	30	92	22	82
Melling .....	53	175	7	26
Quernmore .....	50	171	117	467
Roeburndale .....	Nil	Nil	19	68
Tatham .....	39	126	76	285
Tunstall .....	24	80	4	16
Wennington .....	34	119	Nil	Nil
Whittington .....	58	194	28	104
Wray .....	106	347	28	105
Total Whole District	1,314	4,447	626	2,297

## SEWERAGE.

There are no modern or up to date sewerage treatment works in any part of the Area, sewerage being disposed of by means of small tanks in the various villages, but one cannot conscientiously say that these tanks are efficient or adequate in any degree.

A number of schemes for the provision of adequate sewerage treatment have been prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineer—Mr. D. H. Moore, of Scarborough, and these have been discussed by the Council during the year, prior to submission to the Ministry. These schemes should be put in hand as early as possible, as there is no doubt their provision is urgently required throughout the Area.

## SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

No. of Middens :—	884	No. of Closets attached :—	
No. of Pail Closets :—	59		1,030
No. of Houses on Water		No. of Ashbins :—	2,144
Carriage System :—	1,009	No. of Fresh Water	
		Closets :—	1,099



### Conversions during 1947 :—

No. of privy closets to fresh water closets :—	11
No. of fixed receptacles to moveable ashbins :—	9

### PUBLIC CLEANSING.

House refuse collection is carried out by the Council's refuse collection staff and one mechanically propelled vehicle. The refuse is disposed of by means of controlled tipping on tips owned by the Council.

### HOUSING.

The Council have in hand an extensive house building programme and it is proposed to construct new houses in almost every Parish in the District.

Four houses were completed by private individuals, and thirty-eight new houses by the Council during the year under review, but it will be appreciated that considerable difficulty was experienced in obtaining the labour and materials necessary to push on with this work.

The general housing conditions in the District are fairly satisfactory, but much of the older property is not of a good standard, whilst in a few cases there is tendency to overcrowding. Statistics regarding the latter are not by any means complete, as these have had to be built up again following the destruction of the Council Offices in the early part of 1946, but some 5 houses concerning 8 families, or 36 people, were found to be overcrowded within the meaning of the Act.

### INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES.

No. of premises inspected during the year .....	178
No. of visits made for the purpose .....	236
No. inspected and recorded under Housing	
Consolidated Regulations .....	51
No. of inspections made for purpose .....	86
No. of premises found not in all respects reasonably fit .....	132
No. of premises rendered fit by informal action .....	104

It has been found that the majority of owners of property would be only too willing to carry out works of repair and re-conditioning if materials and labour could be obtained, but much of this work will have to be left in abeyance until such time as matters are more normal.

The comments made on the carrying out of the Housing Survey in my Report for last year are still applicable, this work cannot be done with the staff at present in the Council's employ.

### **INSPECTION OF SHOPS.**

All shops are inspected at least twice per year under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, and the Public Health Act, 1936, and no action has been necessary under these Acts.

### **MEAT INSPECTION.**

There are no private slaughter houses as such in the Area, slaughtering has been centralized under the Ministry of Food, at Lancaster Corporation Abattoirs, and inspection is carried out by the Staff employed there.

All food shops and premises where food is prepared are regularly visited and the co-operation of shopkeepers in notifying suspected foodstuffs is appreciated.

The following foods were inspected during the year and found to be unfit for human consumption :—

438 lbs. of Poultry ;	68 lbs. of Sausages ;
28 lbs. of Cake Margarine.	

### **COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.**

There are 417 Dairy Farms in the Area, but again the Staff at its present strength cannot possibly visit these premises as often as is required under the Milk and Dairies Order. 229 visits have been made to farms during the year.

Conditions have not materially changed during the year, owing to labour and material difficulties, although improvements to premises have been carried out in a few cases.

The position with regard to registration of these premises is still in the unsatisfactory state commented upon in previous reports and until the Government make a definite statement as to its policy on the control of premises of this nature, it appears that very little can be done in the matter.

### **GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.**

#### **Laboratory Facilities :—**

Swabs for Diphtheria are examined at the Isolation Hospital of the Lancaster and District Joint Hospital, Slyne Road.

Other bacteriological specimens are sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, and the Royal Infirmary, Preston.

#### **Ambulance Facilities :—**

For Infectious Diseases, the Joint Hospital Board Ambulance is available.

Other cases : Lancaster Corporation (Watch

**Professional Nursing :—** Committee) Ambulance.

The District is provided for by the District Nursing Associations.

### **FACTORY ACT, 1937.**

Visits have been made on 73 occasions to premises during the year. Five notices, three with regard to cleanliness, and two relating to sanitary accommodation have been issued, but one of the latter had not been complied with at the end of the year.







